

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON ISRAELI
USE OF CBU'S

1. NEW YORK TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 8 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE
STORY STATING THAT ISRAEL USED AMERICAN-SUPPLIED CBU'S IN
INVASION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON IN VIOLATION OF SPECIFIC
RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR USE AGREED TO BY ISRAEL WITH UNITED
STATES. IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS PRESS QUERRIES TODAY,
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN GIVEN FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR
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SELECTIVE USE, DEPENDING UPON THE QUESTION ASKED. POST
MAY DRAW UPON IT AS NEEDED IN ANSWERING SIMILAR QUERRIES.

2. QUESTION; IS IT TRUE THAT ISRAEL USED CBU'S IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. IN VIOLATION OF
SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WITH THE USG?

ANSWER:

-- WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ISRAEL USED CBU'S SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES. ISRAEL HAS TOLD US THEY WERE USED EXCLUSIVELY VS. MILITARY (MAINLY ARTILLERY) TARGETS.

--THIS MILITARY EQUIPMENT, LIKE OTHER EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO ISRAEL, FALLS UNDER THE 1952 AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL ON SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES. THIS

AGREEMENT CONFORMS TO THE TERMS OF ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

--THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE LAST WEEK REPORTING THAT A VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT MAY HAVE OCCURRED, AS REQUIRED BY THE ARMS CONTROL ACT, COVERED THE CBU'S AS WELL AS OTHER AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

--ISRAEL HAD ALSO GIVEN US ASSURANCES IT WOULD OBSERVE CERTAIN SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF CBU'S. I CANNOT GO INTO THE DETAILS, BUT ISRAEL'S USE OF THE CBU'S IN ITS RECENT MILITARY OPERATION IN LEBANON WERE CONTRARY TO THOSE RESTRICTIONS.

--WE ARE HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO ASSURING THAT THOSE RESTRICTIONS WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBSERVED IN FUTURE. I CANNOT GO INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

--SINCE THE CBU'S, LIKE OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WERE COVERED IN THE SECRETARY'S ORIGINAL LETTER TO CONGRESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE ANOTHER SEPARATE REPORT IS NECESSARY. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER, HOWEVER, WITH INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

--WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY FURTHER ACTION REGARDING ISRAEL IS REQUIRED UNDER THE LAW AS THE SECRETARY SAID IN HIS LETTER.

3. IN ADDITION, WE ARE SAYING ON BACKGROUND:

--WE HAVE LIMITED INDEPENDENT INFORMATION, BUT WHAT WE HAVE DOES NOT CONTRADICT THE ISRAELI CLAIM OF TARGETING.

--THE RESTRICTIONS DID NOT EXTEND SIMPLY TO TARGETS.

--LANGUAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER WAS THAT REQUIRED BY THE LAW, WHEN HE SAID VIOLATIONS "MAY HAVE OCCURRED." OUR

CONFIRMATION OF THE VIOLATIONS OF THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY
THE ISRAELIS ON USE OF THE CBU'S SPECIFICALLY, THEREFORE,
DOES NOT CHANGE THE FORMULATION UNDER THE LAW PUT IN THE
SECRETARY'S LETTER. VANCE

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